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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,539	03/26/2004	Terry Monroe	020569-07100 (P202-1286-U)	8945
54487	7590	03/10/2006	EXAMINER	
JONES & SMITH, LLP THE RIVIANA BUILDING 2777 ALLEN PARKWAY, SUITE 800 HOUSTON, TX 77019-2141			BATES, ZAKIYA W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/810,539

Applicant(s)

MONROE ET AL.

Examiner

Zakiya W. Bates

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03262004</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,138,760, US 5,547,026 (cited by applicant), US 5,813,466, or US 5,201,370.

Each reference discloses a method that includes, with respect to claim 1, a method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of: forming a base fluid by blending an aqueous fluid and carboxymethyl guar; adding a crosslinking agent to the base fluid to form a crosslinkable gel; and pumping the crosslinkable gel into the subterranean formation. With respect to claim 9, the references each disclose a method that includes a method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore, the method comprising the steps of: forming an aqueous base fluid comprising between from about 40 to about 120 pounds of carboxymethyl guar per 1000 gallons of aqueous fluid; adding to said aqueous base fluid a crosslinking agent to form a gelled crosslinkable fluid; and pumping the gelled crosslinkable fluid into a subterranean formation adjacent the wellbore. With respect to claim 15, the references each discloses a method that includes a method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of: forming a crosslinkable gel comprising carboxymethyl guar and a

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crosslinking agent. and pumping the crosslinkable gel into a subterranean formation adjacent the wellbore. With respect to claim 18, the references each discloses a method that includes a method of controlling fluid loss from an oil well during drilling, completion and/or workover operations which comprises: forming a gelled, aqueous base crosslinkable fluid comprising carboxymethyl guar and a crosslinking agent; pumping the crosslinkable fluid into a subterranean formation; and forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within the subterranean formation. With respect to the depending claims, the references individually teach the limitations as claimed. See each document in its entirety. For US'760, see especially the abstract and column 17. For US'026, see especially columns 2-6 and the claims. For US'466, see especially the abstract and the claims. For US'370, see especially the abstract, columns 4-6, and the claims.


### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zakiya W. Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-7039. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Zakiya W. Bates  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3676

zb  
March 2, 2006